



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/752,400	01/06/2004	Osamu Morita	09792909-5778	6814

26263 7590 06/27/2006

SONNENSCHN NATH & ROSENTHAL LLP  
P.O. BOX 061080  
WACKER DRIVE STATION, SEARS TOWER  
CHICAGO, IL 60606-1080

EXAMINER

PEYTON, TAMMARA R

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2182

DATE MAILED: 06/27/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/752,400

Applicant(s)

MORITA ET AL.

Examiner

Tammara R. Peyton

Art Unit

2182

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 January 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Palatov et al., (US 2003/0063196).

As per claims 1-15, Palatov teaches a hard disk system that is used as an external storage apparatus of a host device, comprising:

a hard disk unit; and (Figs. 1a, 2a, 2b)

a conversion unit which is attachable to and detachable from said hard disk unit, wherein said hard disk unit includes:

a hard disk for magnetically storing data;

a recording/reading section for recording and reading data to

and from said hard disk; and a hard disk side interface section for having data, which is recorded on and read from said hard disk, inputted and outputted to and from said conversion unit in a first transfer format, said conversion unit includes:

a host interface section for transmitting and receiving data,  
which is recorded on and read from said hard disk, to and from said host device  
in a second transfer format;

a conversion unit side interface section for having data, which is recorded on and  
read from said hard disk, inputted and outputted to and from said hard disk unit in said  
first transfer format;

a transfer format conversion section for carrying out transfer format conversion  
between said first transfer format and said second transfer format, and for carrying out  
data transfer between said host interface section and said conversion unit side  
interface; and a power source section,

said hard disk side interface section and said conversion unit side interface are,  
when said hard disk unit and said conversion unit are connected, made capable of  
transferring data between each other, and said power source section supplies power to  
each section of said conversion unit when said hard disk unit and said conversion unit  
are connected. (Abstract, pgs. 1-5)

Claims 1-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by  
Kobayashi et al., (US 2003/0045327)

As per claims 1-15, Kobayashi teaches a hard disk system that is used as an  
external storage apparatus of a host device, comprising:

a hard disk unit; and (Figs. 2-6)

a conversion unit which is attachable to and detachable from said hard disk unit, wherein said hard disk unit includes:

a hard disk for magnetically storing data;

a recording/reading section for recording and reading data to

and from said hard disk; and a hard disk side interface section for having data, which is recorded on and read from said hard disk, inputted and outputted to and from said conversion unit in a first transfer format, said conversion unit includes:

a host interface section for transmitting and receiving data,

which is recorded on and read from said hard disk, to and from said host device in a second transfer format;

a conversion unit side interface section for having data, which is recorded on and read from said hard disk, inputted and outputted to and from said hard disk unit in said first transfer format;

a transfer format conversion section for carrying out transfer format conversion between said first transfer format and said second transfer format, and for carrying out data transfer between said host interface section and said conversion unit side interface; and a power source section,

said hard disk side interface section and said conversion unit side interface are, when said hard disk unit and said conversion unit are connected, made capable of transferring data between each other, and said power source section supplies power to each section of said conversion unit when said hard disk unit and said conversion unit are connected. (Abstract, pgs. 1-5)

***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tammara Peyton whose telephone number is (571) 272-4157. The examiner can normally be reached between 6:30 - 4:00 from Monday to Thursday, (I am off every first Friday), and 6:30-3:00 every second Friday. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim Huynh can be reached on (571) 272-4147. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300. Any inquiry of a general nature of relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-2100.

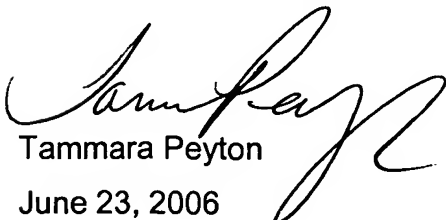
Mailed responses to this action should be sent to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231.

Faxes for Official/formal (After Final) communications or for informal or draft communications (please label "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT") sent to:

(571) 273-8300

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to:  
USTPO, Randolph Building, Customer Service Window  
401 Dulany Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314.

  
Tammara Peyton  
June 23, 2006

**TAMMARA PEYTON  
PRIMARY EXAMINER**